

From: Joseph P Frazee
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 7:24pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am opposed to the proposed Microsoft Settlement agreement.

Speaking as both a user of Free Open Source software and a systems manager for The Ohio State University Libraries, I depend on the low cost and high interoperability of Free Open Source software as it exists today. This low cost and high interoperability has been made possible by companies adhering to open standards and participating in fair market practices that include making protocols and formats open and accessible.

By allowing a corporation such as Microsoft to legally exclude themselves from providing opportunities for interoperability via open standards, you are effectively ensuring that Free Open Source software will not be able to compete. It will then die.

This would be a tragedy for the organization I am in and organizations that I have worked with in the past. We depend on Free Open Source software to do jobs ranging from enterprise Internet services to desktop support tools. This has become increasingly true amidst the ailing economy where pay-for software, support contracts, and maintenance fees have become too expensive.

Do not let Free Open Source software die because monopolies were allowed to prevail. Do not forget this country's past of furthering open standards. Two hundred years ago we paid Eli Whitney to give us open standards for gun production. Do not let us now pay William Gates so that we never have an open standard again.

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